

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising:
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine,
mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: anxiolytic
compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants,
antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel
blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle
relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins;

to the area of an individual's skin to be anesthetized; and

allowing the gel anesthetic to remain in contact with the area for a period of time
sufficient to reduce pain sensation.

20. (Previously presented) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anesthetic formulation consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer comprising benzyl alcohol;

a volatile co-solvent;

with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics, anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins;

to the area to be anesthetized.

21-23 (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact oral mucosa a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins.

25. (Currently amended) The formulation method of claim 19, wherein lidocaine is present from 0.5-6 total weight percent.

26. (Currently amended) The formulation method of claim 19, wherein said skin penetration enhancer is present from 25 to 45 total weight percent.

27. (Currently amended) The formulation method of claim 19 wherein the gelling agent is a cellulosic polymer.

28. (Currently amended) The formulation method of claim 19 wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-itch.

29. (Currently amended) The formulation method of claim 24, wherein lidocaine is present from 0.5-6 total weight percent.

30. (Currently amended) The formulation method of claim 24, wherein said skin penetration enhancer is present from 25 to 45 total weight percent.

31. (Previously presented) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising:
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
consisting of:
in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine,
mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;
a skin penetration enhancer; and
a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient.

32. (Previously presented) A method for reducing pain sensation comprising:
applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
consisting of:
in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine,
mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;
a skin penetration enhancer;
a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and
an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: alkylamines,
ethanolamines, ethylenediamines, phenothiazines, astemazole, loratadine, fexofenadine, cetirizine,
camphor, thymol, calamine, crotamiton, aminoglycosides, cephalosporins, vancomycin,
lincosamides, macrolides, nitroimidazoles, penicillins, antibiotic polypeptides, and quinolones.

33. (Previously presented) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact oral mucosa a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer; and

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient.

34. (Previously presented) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact oral mucosa a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine, bupivacaine, chloroprocaine, oxyprocaine, mepivacaine, piperocaine, dibucaine, benzocaine, and dyclaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: alkylamines, ethanolamines, ethylenediamines, phenothiazines, astemazole, loratadine, fexofenadine, cetirizine, camphor, thymol, calamine, crotamiton, aminoglycosides, cephalosporins, vancomycin, lincosamides, macrolides, nitroimidazoles, penicillins, antibiotic polypeptides, and quinolones.